PUBLIC NOTICE

PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER: NRS 07.360

APPLICANT: Tennessee Department of Transportation

Environmental Division

Suite 900, James K. Polk Building

505 Deaderick Street

Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0338

615-253-2477

LOCATION: The proposed alterations are located along U.S.64/SR-40 from east of U.S. 411/SR-33 to approximately 1,100 feet west of the Ocoee River in Polk County, Tennessee. (35.1255°N, -84.7121°W)

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION: The aquatic resources proposed to be altered are within the Ocoee Watershed (HUC 06020003). The resources are Lowery Branch (STR-1), Fry Branch (STR-2) and an associated wetland (WTL-1), and an unnamed tributary to Fry Branch (STR-3) and an associated wetland (WTL-2).

Lowery Branch (STR-1) at the project location is a perennial stream with a channel bottom width of approximately 10 ft., top of bank width of approximately 12 ft., and an approximate bank height of 3-4 ft. Lowery Branch is currently under assessment.

Fry Branch (STR-2) at the project location is a perennial stream with a channel bottom width of approximately 15 ft., top of bank width of approximately 25 ft., and an approximate bank height of 7 ft. Fry Branch is currently under assessment.

The wetland area (WTL-1) associated with Fry Branch (STR-2) is contiguous with Fry Branch (STR-2) and is a forested wetland area. The approximate size of the wetland area is 0.3 acres, with 0.080 acres of permanent impact, and 0.041 acres of temporary impact.

The unnamed tributary to Fry Branch (STR-3) at the project location is a perennial stream with a channel bottom width of approximately 4 ft., top of bank width of approximately 15 ft., and an approximate bank height of 5 ft. The unnamed tributary to Fry Branch is currently under assessment.

The wetland area (WTL-2) associated with the unnamed tributary to Fry Branch (STR-3) is contiguous with the unnamed tributary to Fry Branch and is an emergent wetland area. The approximate size of the wetland area is 0.04 acres, with 0.04 acres of permanent impact.

One unnamed seep spring area (SEP-1) was documented on site. The seep area is approximately 1.5 ft. X 15 ft.

Additionally, two Sinkhole areas (SNK-1 and SNK-2) were observed in the vicinity of the project area along U.S.64/SR-40. These two sinkhole areas are proposed to be filled and Class V Underground Injection Well permits will be applied for.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to widen and realign approximately 2.22 miles of U.S.64/SR-40 from east of U.S.411/SR-33 to approximately 1,100 ft. west of the Ocoee River. The project is to widen the existing 2-lane roadway on U.S.64 to a 4-lane divided highway. The applicant proposes the following impacts to aquatic resources:

- The applicant proposes to replace the existing 34 ft. box culvert in Lowery Branch (STR-1) with a 127 ft. box culvert, 40 ft. of rip-rap transitions at culvert inlet and outlet, and 34 ft. of open-channel impact without rip-rap.
- The applicant proposes to replace the 38 ft. existing box culvert in Fry Branch (STR-2) with a 121.5 ft. box culvert, 50 ft. of rip-rap transitions at culvert inlet and outlet, 65.5 ft. of open channel impact without rip-rap.
- The applicant proposes to permanently impact approximately 0.080 acres of the contiguous wetland area (WTL-1) associated with Fry Branch (STR-2), and temporarily impact approximately 0.041 acres.
- The applicant proposes to install a 96 ft. pre-cast box culvert in the unnamed tributary to Fry Branch (STR-3).
- The applicant proposes to permanently impact approximately 0.043 acres of the contiguous wetland area (WTL-2) associated with the unnamed tributary to Fry Branch, and temporarily impact 0.012 acres.

The applicant has proposed to provide compensatory mitigation by payment to the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program (TSMP). A total payment of \$36,800 would be made to the TSMP. Additionally, the applicant will provide mitigation for the loss of 0.123 acres of wetland by purchasing credits at a 2:1 ratio through the Shady Valley Mitigation Bank.

PERMIT COORDINATOR: Chip Hannah

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE: Parksville, TN Quadrangle 126 – SW

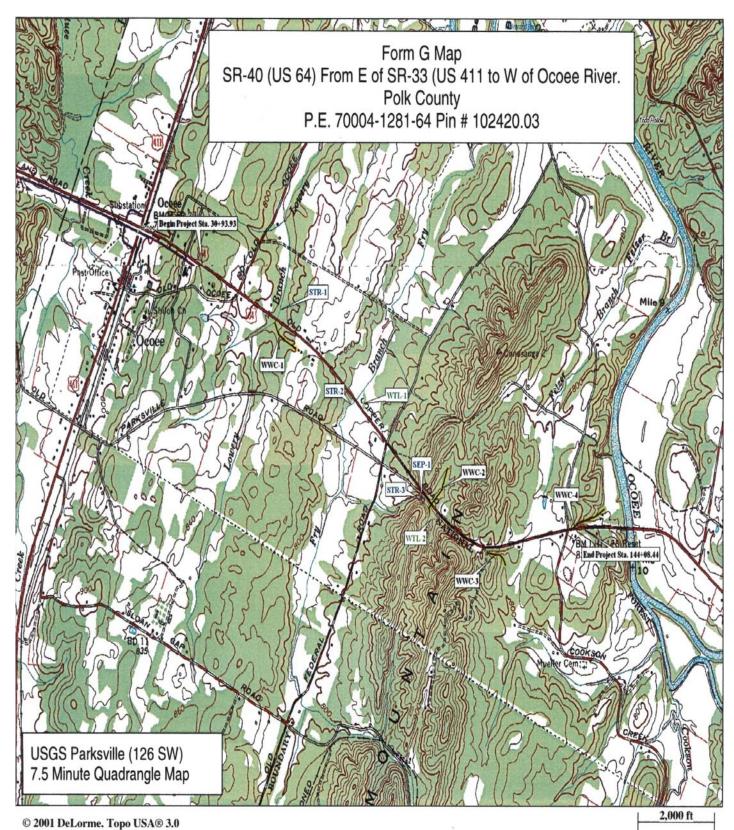
No decision has been made whether to issue or deny this permit. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties of this permit application and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the department. Written comments must be received within THIRTY (30) DAYS of the date that this notice is posted. Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced.

Interested persons may also request in writing that the department hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be filed within the comment period, indicate the interest of the person requesting it, the reasons that the hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the department will hold a public hearing.

The permit application, supporting documentation including detailed plans and maps, and related comments are available at the department's address for review and/or copying. The department's address is:

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control, Natural Resources Section
7th Floor L & C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243

In deciding whether to issue or deny a permit, the department will consider all comments on record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.



Scale: 1: 24,000 Zoom Level: 13-4 Datum: WGS84 Map Rotation: 0° Magnetic Declination: 3.7°W

